

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2006***

The meeting was called to order at 6:42pm. Selectmen present were: Janet Smith and Wes Moore. Others present were: Chief Reed, Lt. Gould, Jeff Feenstra, and Bill Davis.

Earlier this evening, the Selectmen and Brian Knipstein (the Road Agent) met with Cathy Nelson-Smith and Barbara Nelson at the Nelson Smith property regarding water runoff into their field. A discussion took place about the possibility of putting in a berm to direct the water into the current drain. This could be done in the Spring of 2007 when the road is scheduled to be re-paved.

When the State changed Route 85, the flow of water changed and it now flows into the field. The current drain does not collect all of the water. The affected area is from the end of Pleasant Street at Main Street on the south side of the road all the way to the corner of Pleasant Street and Hilton Avenue. The Town could go after the State for the cost of repairs, but it is not worth the time and effort as Pleasant Street is scheduled for re-paving anyway. Wes made a motion that in April or May of 2007, a Cape Cod style berm be installed by the Highway Department from the corner of Pleasant and Main Street at the Nelson property to the corner of Pleasant Street and Hilton Avenue. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The ramp to be constructed at the front of the Town Hall was discussed. The company bidding on the ramp work does not install handrails. The Selectmen do not want the ramp to be installed a section at a time, but completely built. Janet will speak with Reuben Hull on Wednesday for his opinion and Wes will get in contact with Starkey Welding in Brentwood to see if they are interested in the handrail job.

Lt. Gould gave the Selectmen a printout of the Speed and DWI Grants.

Lt. Gould did more research on the Dog Ordinance and found that if a dog attacks another dog, the Town is liable for the damages. The owner of the attacked dog can go after the owner of the attacking dog for damages, but if they are not happy they can bring the issue before the Selectmen and the Town can be liable.

If there is a Town Ordinance, the Town receives the funds from any fines. If the State RSA is used because there is not a Town Ordinance, the State receives any funds from fines.

The only part missing from the current ordinance is "domestic or" wild animals. Chief Reed recommends that domestic animals be inserted into the ordinance. He said that the Police enforce the Dog Ordinance not the Selectmen.

Tonight was the second reading of the revised Dog Ordinance. The third and final reading will be on October 10th, 2007.

The Venturing Club will have an open house on October 22nd at the Town Hall from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 20 may sign up to be a member. This will be sponsored by the Police Department with the boys and girls as the main organizers and Police Department volunteers as advisors along with any other interested adults. Insurance coverage will be primary with the parents and secondary through the Boy Scouts. This is an all volunteer effort by the Newfields Police Department. Janet will contact Primex about any liability issue the Town might have because the Police Department is sponsoring the club.

Chief Reed advised that Officer Brett Wells submitted his resignation. Officer Wells will be leaving the department on October 4th. A full-time police officer will need to be hired to replace him. Chief Reed has an in-house candidate interested in the position. The Selectmen stated that the Chief is in charge of hiring officers, but that they would like to meet the full-time candidate/ new hire at next Tuesday's Meeting.

Chief Reed informed the Selectmen that Dale Robeck resigned from his part-time position with the Police Department. The Chief will need to hire more part-time officers.

Bill Tebo is working on the dedication for the new bridge on Route 108. He asked if he could borrow an American Flag, a podium, and chairs for the dedication ceremony. The Selectmen gave their approval. Bill also asked the Town for a donation of \$100.00 towards the expenses of the dedication. The Town of Stratham has donated \$100.00 and a wreath for the ceremony. A band will play at the ceremony and are donating their services.

Wes made a motion to authorize \$100.00 for the Bridge Dedication Ceremony. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor. Nancy will be in touch with Bill to find out how soon he needs to receive the funds.

Janet and Wes will set a date to inspect the pool fence at the Silverstein property.

Wes made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of September 19th, 2006. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Janet attended a seminar at the Local Government Center on the Basic Law of Budgeting. She asked Nancy to make a copy of the booklet for the Budget Advisory Committee.

Jeff Feenstra and Bill Davis came to the meeting to update the Selectmen on the Cable Commission. Jeff suggested that the Town ask for all items they would like to receive from the new cable contract provider. He said the Town may not receive all they ask for,

but should receive something. Jeff also suggested that a representative from each of the cable companies vying for the contract attend a Selectmen's Meeting in a public session for a question and answer session.

Bill Davis said that the Commission needs to make sure that if a fee is paid to the Town by the cable company that the cable rates paid by the residents do not increase because of any payment to the Town.

The school and library receive free internet service from Comcast. The fire department and town office have to pay for their internet service. Perhaps an arrangement could be made for the town office and fire department to receive free internet service also. Bill and Jeff will speak with Dwight Davis about meeting with a Comcast representative for contract renewal information.

Janet and Wes reviewed HB410 with regard to Property Tax Relief Applications and HB1394 with regard to Current Use Values. Janet asked Nancy to give a copy of the correspondence to Sue McKinnon, Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

The contract and invoice from Doucet Survey was reviewed. As the Conservation Commission agreed to pay for the survey back in 2003, the invoice will be paid. The funds will come from the Conservation Commission budget.

Primex sent a letter to the Town with notification that the health insurance premiums will increase by no more than 14.80%. The actual increase may be lower, but no higher than this amount. The final rate will be determined at the end of November.

PSNH asked that the Town complete a survey on their service to the community. Nancy was asked to complete the survey and return it to PSNH. Jeff Feenstra asked if there was some way to have PSNH keep the Fire Department updated on power outages in Newfields. Nancy will look into this for Jeff.

A copy of the letter from the Department of Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management sent to Tom Conner, Newfields Emergency Management Director was reviewed.

Correspondence from the Town Attorney was reviewed. The information sent to the Selectmen with regard to Junk Yard Regulations was tabled until the next Selectmen's Meeting.

A resident asked if he could have the two old cpu's from the Town Office which were recently replaced. The Selectmen asked if the company who provided the replacement units would be willing to take the old units for a credit. This will be looked into before giving the units to anyone.

A welfare issue was discussed.

Shaines & McEachern, PA Attorneys at Law asked the Town to consider their law firm at attorneys for the Town.

The letter to George W. Cleek, IV, State Conservationist was signed by Janet. This is in regard to the grant on the Cole property. The Request For Advance or Reimbursement was signed by Janet.

The New Hampshire Association of Assessing Officials sent a ballot for the 2007 Elections to the Selectmen. As the Selectmen do not know any of the candidates on the ballot, they opted not to participate.

A letter from the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services regarding EEE and West Nile Virus was reviewed.

The new directory of New Hampshire Municipal Officials was received.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Janet seconded the motion and the motion passed will all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer